

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 CTME-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DEAE-00
DLOS-09 SIG-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
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DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP:EPERREULT:BJF
APPROVED BY ARA/RPP-CEFINAN
ARA/AND - MR. HOLLY (DRAFT)
ARA/CAR - MR. HEWITT(DRAFT)
ARA/CAR - MR. PIERCE(DRAFT)
S/NM - MR. LINNEMAN(DRAFT)
S/NM - MR. ALEXANDER(DRAFT)
CUSTOMS - MR. DOWNEY
USCG -CROMWELL/LCDR BLANTON(DRAFT
DEA - MR. HALPERIN(DRAFT)
D/LOS MR TAFT

-----074538 181754Z /64

R 181559Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BF

SUBJECT: TRAFFICKING IN THE BAHAMAS

REFS: (1) NASSAU 1311(NOTAL), (2) NASSAU 1272(NOTAL),
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(3) NASSAU 1166(NOTAL), (4) NASSAU 1122(NOTAL)
AND (5) NASSAU 1484

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE
CONFERRED ON BASIS EMBASSY'S HELPFUL REPORTS AND ANALYSIS
REFTELS. FOLLOWING MESSAGE OUTLINES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO SOME OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

IDENTIFIED; HOWEVER, BASIC PROBLEM WE SEE IS OBTAINING POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT. EMBASSY VIEWS REQUESTED AS TO HOW POLITICAL LEVEL BAHAMIAN COMMITMENT TO MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT CAN BE ASCERTAINED AND ENCOURAGED.

2. USG FULLY DISPOSED TO COOPERATE WITH AND TO SUPPORT BAHAMIAN ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS SO LONG AS WE ARE PERSUADED OUR ROLE IN THIS RESPECT CAN BE EFFECTIVE. SOME OF THE AREAS WE HAVE DISCUSSED INCLUDE:

2A. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN ASPECTS OF ENFORCEMENT INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NARCOTICS

INTELLIGENCE, COASTAL PATROL, CUSTOMS OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE.

2B. PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND AUXILIARY SERVICES (E.G., MAINTENANCE, TRAINING) TO MAKE ITS USE EFFECTIVE.

2C. CONSULTATION AT ALL LEVELS AS AN AID TO COORDINATING ENFORCEMENT, IDENTIFYING AREAS OF NEED WHICH USG MIGHT FILL, AND ESTABLISHING MOMENTUM OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORT.

2D. (FYI, IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES CASH SUPPORT MAY BE AUTHORIZED FOR HOST COUNTRY PROGRAMS OFFERING PERFORMANCE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCENTIVES TO NARCOTICS AGENTS. THESE HOWEVER HAVE NOT BEEN CONSIDERED FOR THE BAHAMAS.)

3. WE ARE PURSUING EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION (NASSAU 1311) THAT DEA OFFICE BE ESTABLISHED IN NASSAU. (FYI: MINISTER ADDERLEY, IN COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON US MILITARY FACILITIES, EXPRESSED DISPOSITION TO APPROVE THIS IF FORMALLY APPROACHED.)

4. AS EMBASSY AWARE, USG AND BAHAMIANS HAVE COMPLEMENTARY INTERESTS IN DEVELOPING SUCCESSOR TO GREY AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT HEIGHTENED U.S. COAST GUARD COOPERATION WITH BAHAMIANS IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND OIL SPILL CONTROL (STATE 163327). COAST GUARD AND OTHER USG AGENCIES CURRENTLY CONSIDERING WHAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT MIGHT PROVIDE AND WOULD WELCOME EXPRESSION OF BAHAMIAN VIEWS IN DOING SO.

5. CONCERNING NEED EMBASSY IDENTIFIES FOR AIRCRAFT TO INCREASE SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY, DEPARTMENT MIGHT ARRANGE DEPLOY USG AGENCY AIRCRAFT TO BASES IN FLORIDA FROM WHICH THEY COULD OPERATE, ON A TRIAL BASIS, SURVEILLANCE OVER-FLIGHTS OF THE ISLANDS WITH BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS ABOARD.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONFRONTING THE PERCEIVED PROBLEM MIGHT BEST BE FRAMED ON THE BASIS OF THIS EXPERIENCE. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL INFORMALLY WITH BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS.

6. CONCERNING ILLEGAL USE OF ABANDONED AIRSTRIPS ON REMOTE ISLANDS: USG HAS ASSISTED ANOTHER COUNTRY OF THE HEMISPHERE WITH SIMILAR PROBLEM. MEANS WERE DEvised TO BLOCK THOSE AIRSTRIPS THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE UNABLE TO PATROL WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY. USG WOULD BE DISPOSED TO EXAMINE PROBLEM IN BAHAMAS IF REQUESTED AND HELP AUTHORITIES DEVELOP SOLUTION.

7. MANY OF THE PROBLEMS THE EMBASSY HAS IDENTIFIED CAN
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ONLY BE SOLVED BY BAHAMIAN ACTION; HOWEVER, WE ARE

PREPARED TO OFFER APPROPRIATE ENCOURAGEMENT WHERE MATTERS ARE DEVELOPING ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES.

7A. WE WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, LIKE TO PERSUADE THE AUTHORITIES TO ESTABLISH A BAIL AND APPEAL BOND STRUCTURE APPROPRIATE TO SCALE OF ILLICIT PROFITS FROM TRAFFIC AND THUS EFFECTIVE IN DISCOURAGING BOND FORFEITURES. SIMILARLY WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE IN ANY APPROPRIATE WAY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND APPROPRIATE SENTENCES FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES. IF ASKED WE COULD ARRANGE CONSULTATIONS ON THESE MATTERS.

7B. THE TRAFFICKING PROBLEM IN THE BAHAMAS IS, AS THE EMBASSY HAS RECOGNIZED, PART OF A REGIONAL PICTURE INVOLVING COLOMBIA, AS PRINCIPAL SOURCE COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES AS THE ILLICIT MARKET, AND OTHER CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS INTERMEDIARIES AND POTENTIAL INTERMEDIARIES. EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT REQUIRES COLLABORATION AMONG AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED. USG WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT CONSULTATIONS AMONG THEM AND WOULD BE DISPOSED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRAM THEY MIGHT DEVELOP, E.G., FOR IMPROVED INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION, JOINT CASE DEVELOPMENT, AND COORDINATED SURVEILLANCE AND PURSUIT OF VIOLATORS. AS INITIAL STEP EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO ENCOURAGE BAHAMIANS TO APPROACH COLOMBIAN COUNTERPARTS TO INITIATE COLLABORATION IN SOME OF THEIR PRIORITY AREAS.

7C. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TIGHTENED CUSTOMS INSPECTION OF INCOMING AIRLINE PASSENGERS FROM SOUTH AMERICA AND POTENTIAL INTERMEDIATE DRUG SHIPMENT POINTS WOULD BE
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HELPFUL IN CURBING THE FLOW OF COCAINE. THIS WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE SO SENSITIVE AN AREA AS CUSTOMS INSPECTION DIRECTLY IMPINGING ON TOURIST TRAVEL FROM THE UNITED STATES. U.S. CUSTOMS WOULD BE PREPARED TO HELP BAHAMIANS DEVELOP PROFILE OF AIRLINE PASSENGER COCAINE TRAFFICKER IF REQUESTED.

7D. WE WOULD WELCOME INDICATION THAT BAHAMIANS ARE COMING TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEM OF ARMED TRAFFICKERS. THIS WOULD BE KEY PART OF ANY PROGRAM USG MIGHT SUPPORT TO IMPROVE MOBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF BAHAMIAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

8. OUR APPROACH TO GENERAL QUESTION OF MARINE SURVEILLANCE AND INTERDICTION IS TO SEEK IMPROVED COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND BAHAMIAN CUSTOMS. AND WE WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING BAHAMIAN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY. WITH REGARD LOS POSITIONS ADDERLEY LINKS WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT (PARA 1 NASSAU 1272):

8A) UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, STATES MAY ESTABLISH CONTIGUOUS ZONE EXTENDING NO MORE THAN 12 MILES FROM COAST TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTOMS, FISCAL, IMMIGRATION, AND SANITARY REGULATIONS.

8B) ADDERLEY OF COURSE AWARE THAT USG CANNOT SUPPORT HIS POSITION ON ARCHIPELAGO THEORY.

9. EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION SOUGHT AS TO BEST APPROACH TO STRENGTHENING BAHAMIAN EFFORT IN DRUG INTERDICTION. HISTORY OF COOPERATION WITH CUSTOMS AND COAST GUARD, PLUS CONTEMPLATED ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA PRESENCE, PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR WORKING LEVEL CONSULTATION; EMBASSY HAS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED USEFUL CONTACT WITH ASSISTANT POLICE COMMISSIONER THOMPSON. HOW CAN POLITICAL LEVEL BEST BE
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APPROACHED TO OBTAIN IMPETUS FOR DECISIONS AND COMMITMENTS?
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Message Attributes

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